

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-07 COME-00 STR-04 TRSE-00 AID-05 /082 W

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R 151947Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9061

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 0178

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CS

SUBJECT: COSTA RICAN DEPUTIES RETURN FROM CUBA VISIT

REF: SAN JOSE 0004

1. ON JANUARY 14TH 42 COSTA RICAN DEPUTIES (NOT 47 AS REPORTED IN REFTEL) RETURNED FROM A 10-DAY TRIP TO CUBA, HOSTED BY THE INSTITUTO CUBANO PARA LA AMISTAD DE LOS PUEBLOS (ICAP). THE VISIT OF THE COSTA RICAN DELEGATION, WHICH WAS HEADED BY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ALFONSO CARRO ZUNIGA, HAS BEEN HEAVILY REPORTED UPON IN ALL SAN JOSE NEWSPAPERS WHICH SENT REPRESENTATIVES TO CUBA WHERE THEY ACCOMPANIED THE DEPUTIES. ALTHOUGH SOME COSTA RICAN DEPUTIES DROPPED OUT OF THE VISIT AT THE LAST MINUTE, THOSE WHO WENT SEEM TO HAVE HAD NOTHING BUT LAUDATORY WORDS FOR THEIR HOSTS AND WHAT THEY HAD SEEN IN CUBA.

2. THE HIGH POINTS OF THE VISIT WAS APPARENTLY A 2-HOUR MEETING WITH FIDEL CASTRO JUST BEFORE RETURNING TO
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COSTA RICA. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS IN SAN JOSE,

CASTRO COMPLIMENTED THE DEPUTIES FOR THEIR COURAGE IN DARING TO TRAVEL TO CUBA AND THUS RISKING THE ANGER OF THE UNITED STATES. HE REPORTEDLY POINTED OUT TO THE DEPUTIES THAT WHILE COSTA RICA AND THE OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ARE REACTING TO THE UNITED STATES' TRADE LAW, CUBA HAS "SUFFERED 100 TIMES AND MORE BUT HAS SURVIVED THE TEST." ACCORDING TO THE REPORTED ACCOUNT OF CASTRO'S REMARKS TO THE DEPUTIES, HE DISCUSSED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES TO THE UNITED STATES AND MADE SOME OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SITUATION IN THE UNITED STATES.

3. UPON RETURNING TO SAN JOSE TUESDAY NIGHT, ALFONSO CARRO REPORTEDLY CHARACTERIZED THE VISIT AS A COMPLETE SUCCESS AND "OF GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE FOR COSTA RICA AND LATIN AMERICA..." CARRO WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE DID NOT FIND IN CUBA THE BACKWARDNESS THAT OTHERS VISITING THAT COUNTRY HAD SPOKEN ABOUT AND ADDED THAT THE DEPUTIES SAW MUCH MORE THAN THEY EXPECTED. HE NOTED ALSO THAT THE DELEGATES FROM CONSEJO NACIONAL DE PRODUCCION (CNP) AND THE CENTRO NACIONAL PARA LAS EXPORTACIONES (CNE) WHO ACCOMPANIES THE DEPUTIES TO CUBA MADE SOME VERY GOOD CONTACTS FOR THE POSSIBLE SALE OF COSTA RICAN PRODUCTS. APPARENTLY WITHOUT BEING MORE SPECIFIC, HE SAID THAT THE CONVERSATIONS HELD WITH CASTRO "WERE THE BASE FOR A FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CUBA AND COSTA RICA."
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